Amendments to the Drawings:

A corrected Fig. 43 is enclosed.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's first Office Action of December 23, 2005 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the specification, drawings and claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

page 13, line 8, page 14, line 26, page 17, line 14, page 18, line 3 and page 22, line 7 of the present specification are amended to omit reference to Fig. 17C;

Fig. 43 is amended to include the reference sign "500", as is described at page 8, lines 13-21 of the present specification;

independent claim 1 is amended to specify that the claimed printhead assembly has at least two printhead modules, that support members of the printhead modules are configured to communication printing fluid with one another, and that the fluid connector at one end of one of the printhead modules so as to supply printing fluid to the modules. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at page see page 9, line 28-page 11, line 29 of the present specification;

dependent claims 2, 7 and 8 are amended to conform with amended independent claim 1;

dependent claim 4 is amended to properly depend from claim 3; and

dependent claims 3, 5 and 6 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding Drawing Objections

Regarding Fig. 17C

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendments to omit reference to Fig. 17C in the present specification, provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding reference sign "500"

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendment to Fig. 43 to insert the reference sign "500", provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding Claim Objection

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendment to the dependency of claim 4 provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2, 3 and 5-8 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed by Silverbrook et al. (US 6,439,908), for at least the following reasons.

In the present invention, each printhead module 30 has two or more printhead tiles/integrated circuits 50,51 arranged on a fluid channel member 40. At least two of these printhead modules are longitudinally assembled within a casing 20 to form a pagewidth printhead. Multiple printhead modules, each having multiple printhead tiles, are used in the printhead assembly so that replacement of the modules and selection of printhead length are easily provided without the need to provide individual controllers and connections for each printhead integrated circuit.

Easy connection and operation of the multiple modules is provided by configuring the fluid channel members of the modules to communicate printing fluid with each other across the printhead assembly because this enables supply of the printing fluid via a single fluid delivery connector 47 connected at one end of the assembly. By providing the modules in this way, scalability of the printhead assembly is provided without the need to redesign the printing fluid distribution arrangement (see page 9, line 28-page 11, line 29 of the present specification).

On the other hand, Silverbrook discloses an arrangement in which each printhead module 12 has a single microelectromechanical chip 18 and support molding 26,28. Each module is plugged into a reservoir molding 32 housing an ink reservoir 16. Each module may be removed from the reservoir molding, however scalability of the printhead assembly 10 is not provided, as the reservoir molding is a set length. As such, in order to supply ink across an assembly 112 of more than one of the reservoir moldings, it is necessary to supply ink at the end of each reservoir molding via the hoses 110, as illustrated in Fig. 15 of Silverbrook (see col. 2, lines 2-34 and col. 7, line 5-col. 8, line 5 of Silverbrook).

Thus, Silverbrook does not disclose an arrangement in which the modules have more than one printhead chip and support members which enable communication of ink between the modules, and as such, ink delivery from a single end of the assembly. Furthermore, the disclosure of Silverbrook does not teach or suggest one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosed assembly, because Silverbrook specifically teaches that the modularity is provided by the plugging in of the modules into the reservoir molding.

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-8 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed or suggested by Silverbrook.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of dependent claim 4 is not taught or suggested by Silverbrook in view of Lu et al. (US 2003/0007042), for at least the following reasons.

Lu merely discloses a reciprocating printhead 2,10 (see paragraphs [0001]-[0003] and [0013] of Lu), not a pagewidth, modular printhead assembly.

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-8 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed or suggested by Silverbrook either taken alone or in combination with Lu.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,
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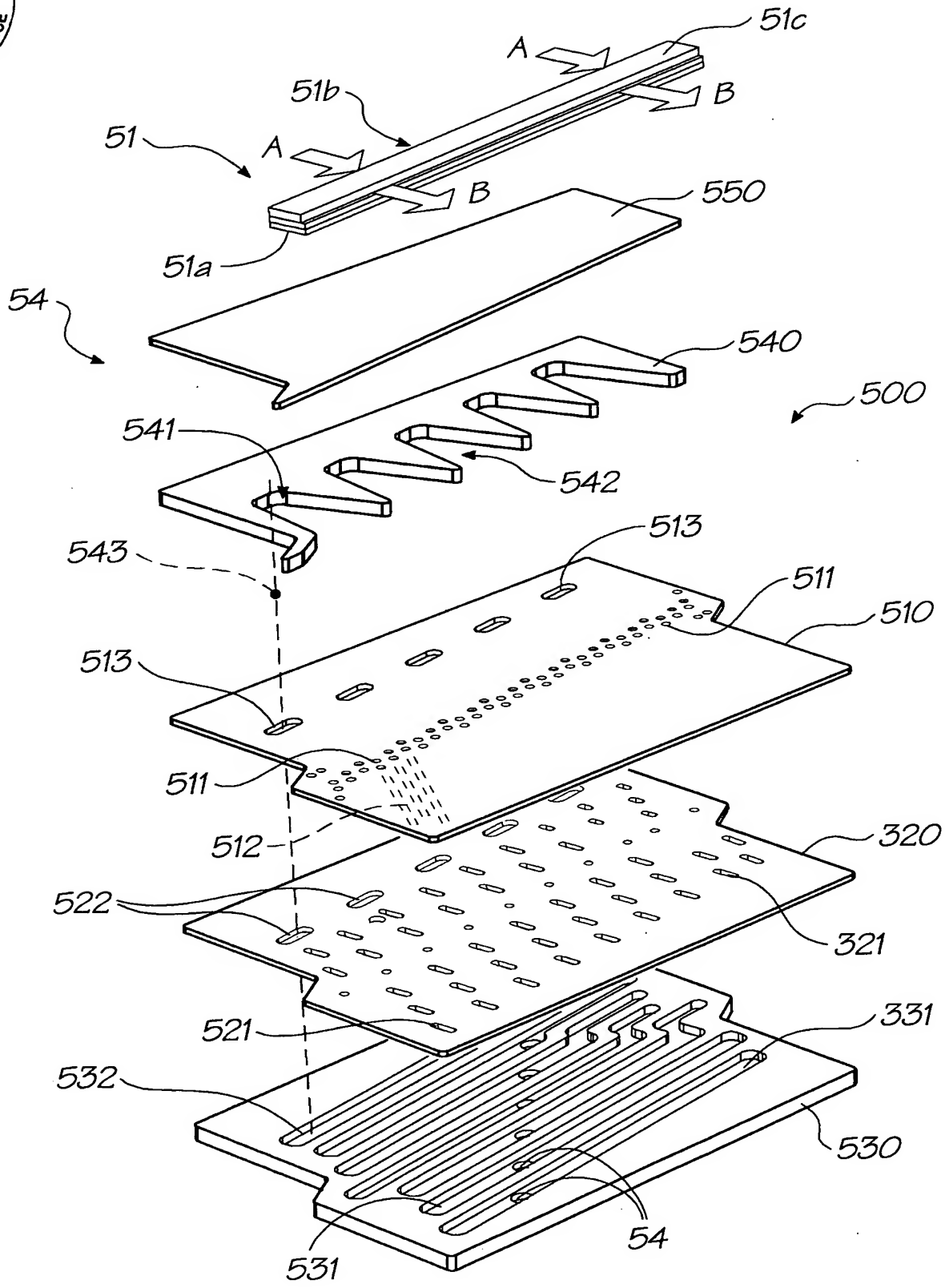

FIG. 43